

am certain that the members of the House will join me in extending their heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

REMEMBERING JIM BRADSHAW

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember former Forth Worth City Councilman Jim Bradshaw, who helped to positively shape his community by serving its citizens.

Mr. Bradshaw graduated from Baylor University and soon after began his career in North Texas. He was elected Mayor Pro Tem by the city council, serving beside Hugh Parmer in 1977. Mr. Bradshaw resigned from the city council to challenge House Majority Leader Jim Wright, who remembered Bradshaw as being tough competition. Bradshaw also ran against Tom Vandergriff for the 26th District seat in the House of Representatives. He was not successful in the bid, but it did not deter him from continuing in public service.

Mr. Bradshaw's service to his community went far beyond his time spent on the city council. He sat on advisory boards for the Recovery Resource Council and the Betty Ford Center. Bradshaw's own experiences led him to help others battle addiction, and in 2005 President George W. Bush awarded him The President's Call to Service Award. Mr. Bradshaw also served on the board of the United Way, March of Dimes, and was the recipient of Bank of America's Local Hero Award for Neighborhood Excellence in 2006.

It is with great honor that I remember Mr. Jim Bradshaw for his tenacity in public service as well as his strong commitment to his community. We will always remember the example he set, and he will be greatly missed.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH TEXAS ACADEMIC RISING SCHOLARS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2009

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership of the South Texas Academic Rising Scholars (STARS) organization. This nonprofit organization has been critical in helping local students obtain higher education at schools of their choosing.

The South Texas Academic Rising Scholars was established in October 2002, with the goal of making higher education accessible to the students of south Texas.

Higher education is the gateway to advancing one's future. As one of eight children born to migrant parents in the border town of Laredo, Texas, I value the significance education has in our lives. There's no doubt that my education has charted the course of my public service career. As a Hispanic-American, education helped me defy odds which still exist for millions of minorities today.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month we should recognize the role higher education

plays in progressing minority communities and dissolving the disparities. With education comes opportunity; it's an undeniable equation that makes a difference in people's lives.

The STARS Student Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to qualified students of south Texas annually and partners with area colleges and universities to better serve the students of south Texas. To this day, STARS has been able to award thousands of scholarships to south Texas students. I join the organization in the belief that education is essential to the growth and enhancement of our community.

The success of STARS is not only due to those managing the program, but also in large part due to generous individuals, businesses, and organizations that support the organization. I am proud to say that 100 percent of every dollar contributed by sponsors goes toward student scholarships. The board of directors is comprised of a diverse group of community leaders dedicated to helping south Texas students achieve higher education.

This truly is a grassroots effort that has given thousands students in south Texas opportunities that wouldn't have existed otherwise.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the goals and endeavors of the South Texas Academic Rising Scholars.

IN HONOR OF VERNON J. BRYANT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2009

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and constituent, Mr. Vernon J. Bryant, for nearly 30 years of public service to the people of the State of North Carolina in the Department of Correction.

Since joining the North Carolina Division of Community Corrections in 1981, Mr. Bryant has steadily advanced in his responsibilities. He currently serves in the Probation/Parole division of the Department of Correction as District Manager of District 6A where he manages about 30 corrections staff. Vernon Bryant began his career as a Court Intake Officer and performed admirably over the next 19 years as Probation and Patrol Officer, Intensive Officer and as Chief Probation and Parole Officer. It was in these capacities that I became most acquainted with Mr. Bryant while I served as a Superior Court Judge presiding over the Courts of District 6A. Mr. Bryant interacted with me on a daily basis and I came to believe that he is one of the finest corrections officials in North Carolina. He is a true professional.

Madam Speaker, the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives appointed Vernon Bryant to the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, which is responsible for the issuance, suspension, and revocation of law enforcement and criminal justice officers' certification. He has also served as a member of the North Carolina Probation and Parole Association and Criminal Justice Partnership Advisory Board for Halifax County.

In addition to his work at the North Carolina Division of Community Corrections, Mr. Bryant

provides community service through Church, boards, commissions and other activities. He is a member and Chairman of the Roanoke Rapids Board of Education. He was first appointed to the Board of Education 1997 and has served as Chairman of the board since 1999. Mr. Bryant also serves as a volunteer youth coach for basketball and soccer, serves on the Halifax Regional Medical Center Board of Directors as Vice Chairman, and is Board Chairman for the State Employee's Credit Union Advisory Board.

Vernon Bryant is a devout Christian and demonstrates his values and beliefs in every aspect of his life. He serves as a member of the Roanoke Rapids Recreation Department Advisory Board and is president and co-founder of Exodus of Youth, Inc., a volunteer nonprofit organization that mentors 75 at-risk youth in four northeastern North Carolina counties. Mr. Bryant continues to give countless hours to bettering his community and there is no doubt that he will continue his community service following his well deserved retirement.

Vernon Bryant is married to Sandra W. Bryant and is the father of two adult children, Kendel and Kevin, who are also distinguishing themselves with their educational pursuits.

Madam Speaker, on Monday, September 28, 2009, friends and colleagues will join together to celebrate Vernon Bryant's three decades of exemplary service to the people of Halifax County and the State of North Carolina.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Vernon Bryant much success in his retirement and thank him for all his years of outstanding public service.

RECOGNIZING RICK SCHEWE, LABOR MAN OF THE YEAR FOR THE SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2009

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Rick Schewe and congratulating him on being named the "George R. Badgley Labor Man of the Year" for the Southwestern Illinois Central Labor Council.

Rick Schewe comes from a union family. In fact, his father was honored with this same award in 1978. Upon joining the Laborers Union in 1973, Rick quickly assumed a leadership role within his local. He served as Secretary-Treasurer for 29 years, assistant business manager for nine years and business manager for 13 years. Rick has represented his local at seven International Conventions and currently is president of the Twelve Counties Southwestern Illinois Laborers District Council.

In addition to his many activities and responsibilities in representing the working men and women of our area, Rick has found time to volunteer within his community, including organizing blood drives and volunteering for the Salvation Army fund-raising campaign.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in an expression of appreciation and congratulations to Mr. Rick Schewe, a true champion of organized labor.

CONGRATULATING NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE ON THEIR 85TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2009

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate North Central Texas College on their 85th year of providing quality education. NCTC will be hosting an anniversary celebration on September 25, 2009.

North Central Texas College, originally Gainesville Junior College, was created when Randolph Lee Clark received authorization from the Gainesville City Council to create the college as part of the Gainesville school system on May 20, 1924.

By the 1950s the college had outgrown its original location in the old Newsome-Daugherty mansion and moved to a new location thanks to the support of citizens like W.T. Bonner, who not only voiced support for funding of the new campus but also donated land. The college eventually changed its name to Cooke County College and then, on June 1, 1994, the Board of Regents voted for the current name, North Central Texas College.

NCTC has seen steady enrollment increases over the years. Since 1980, the student population has nearly quadrupled to a current total of more than 6,000 students. With the addition of campuses in Corinth, Bowie and Graham, the institution has positioned itself as a key provider of quality workforce education and training in areas such as nursing, law enforcement, agriculture, and computer sciences. The college also provides a foundation of academics to propel students to higher degrees.

The college is home to the Small Business Development Center which offers assistance and training to owners, managers and employees of area businesses. The Bowie campus houses the Oil and Gas Technology Center to help meet the technological demands of the energy industry. And with the new addition of the Career and Technology Center, students will be trained to rapidly adapt to ever changing industry needs.

This all gives North Central Texas College a significant role in the economic development of Cooke County and the North Texas region.

I am honored to represent North Central Texas College as part of the 26th District and I congratulate Dr. Eddie Hadlock, the faculty and students as they celebrate their 85th anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 728, 730, 731, 732, and 733, I was absent from the House. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on all.

HONORING COLE PELLETER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cole Pelletier, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 66, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cole Pelletier has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Cole Pelletier has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cole Pelletier for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING A SALUTE TO VETERANS AT ST. RICHARD PARISH

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2009

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Richard Parish in Chicago, Illinois. Saint Richard Parish is hosting its tenth annual Salute to Veterans on Sunday, September 27, 2009.

This celebration, which honors all veterans living and deceased, was started ten years ago by a group of veterans led by Joseph Pierce, William Izquierdo, George Vescovi, and Daniel Costa. All members of the community have been invited to join in honoring the men and women who served our country in the past and those who continue to serve today.

Veterans groups and organizations from throughout the community will come together for this special celebration, which will include a Mass to be followed by a program honoring veterans. I look forward to the honor and privilege of participating in this event for our brave veterans.

Prior to the service, a special ceremony will be held in remembrance of all who have lost their lives in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, including Pfc. Omar Torres, a member of the parish who was killed in Iraq in 2007.

I ask you to join me in honoring the members of St. Richard for their civic dedication and the veterans who will be celebrated for their incredible and selfless service to our nation.

IN HONOR OF WARREN JONES, PRESIDENT OF THE DELAWARE VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute

to Warren Jones, the outgoing President of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (DVFA).

President Jones' career began at the Elsmere Fire Company, where he rose to the rank of Chief and President while serving the town. President Jones' distinguished career did not stop there, however; he then went on to become President of the New Castle County Firefighters Association, as well. After moving from New Castle County to Rehoboth Beach, he became an active member of the Rehoboth Beach Volunteer Fire Company. His continued dedication to serving his community is an inspiration to all Delawareans.

This past January, President Jones had the honor of leading the DVFA contingent in the Inaugural Parade in Washington D.C. I commend President Jones on his exceptional career of service and dedication and I am glad that he had this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Firefighters fulfill a vital need in our society, and to be as effective as possible, they must have dedicated and organized leaders. President Jones has been exactly that over the past year, and the State of Delaware and our nation are greatly indebted to him for all of his hard work.

RECOGNIZING BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON COCA-COLA FACILITY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I want to applaud the Coca-Cola facility, located in Bellevue, Washington, for their remarkable efforts and leadership in sustainability and conservation.

In August, I toured this Coca-Cola facility in my district in order to see for myself the extraordinary environmental efforts going on there. In May, the facility was the recipient of the Business Generator Recycler of the Year Award, presented by the Washington State Recycling Association, after finishing 2008 with a recycling rate of 99.7 percent! The tour was impressive, to say the least, and I am so proud to represent such a great example of corporate responsibility and stewardship.

I also understand Coca-Cola is celebrating Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability in Action week in Bellevue soon and I hope CEO John Brock and his employees will enjoy their visit to the Eighth District of Washington. I know the Coca-Cola Corporation and their facility in Bellevue will continue to provide sound environmental leadership and I thank them for their earnest investment in sustainability, stewardship and conservation.

RECOGNIZING LAWRENCE J. JENNINGS, HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 25, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lawrence J. Jennings of Hernando County,